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FORTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

TOWN COUNCIL,

ACTING AS THE

Sanitary Authority for the Borough of Ryde

For the Year 1925.

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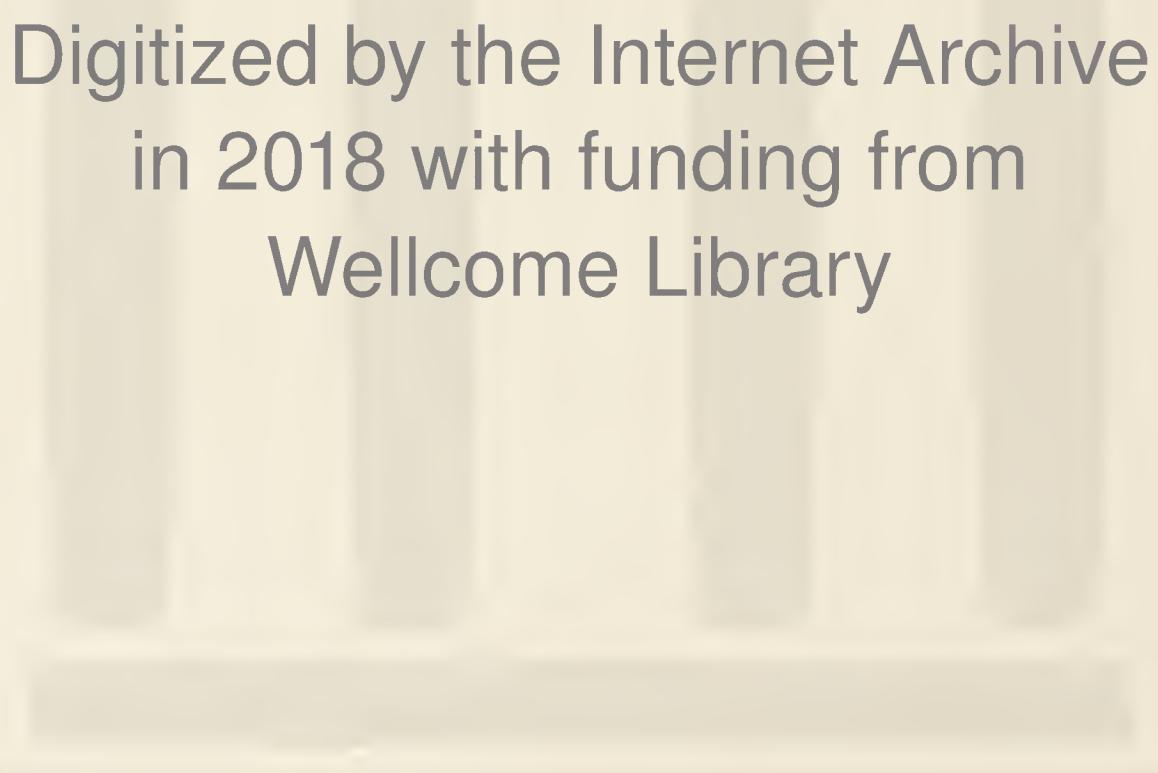
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TOWN COUNCIL,

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WEST END,

JOHN STREET, RYDE.

March, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1925, I am directed by the Minister of Health to deal comprehensively with the changes and progress which have been made in sanitary matters, and also in the public health services in general, during the past five years. I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for much of the information contained therein, as under the present system the problems of housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging and refuse disposal, are dealt with by him under the control of the Public Works and Water Committees. Whether the entire divorce of these Services from control by the Sanitary and Health Committee is a satisfactory state of affairs is a matter for the Council; it occurs to me that a more co-ordinated control, either by fusion of Committees or otherwise, would be a great improvement, but that is only my opinion, and division of the work between several Committees may be essential for convenient working.

Be that as it may, it is in accordance with the Minister's instructions that all these matters should be dealt with in my report.

1. Natural and Social Conditions.

Area 820 acres; Population 11,295 (Census 1921), 10,460 (Registrar General's figures).

Physical Features of the District. The greater part of the Borough is situated on the northern and eastern slopes of a hill which extends from the shores of the Solent inland to the south for a distance of about two miles. To the east it is limited by the Smallbrook which stream separates it from the St. Helens Urban District; on the west side the boundary is formed by the Binstead Brook, while the southern limit is fixed by an arbitrary and irregular boundary line joining the two streams. On all sides the Borough has overflowed its boundaries, and only in a few places within it are there any building sites, most of the new building which is under way taking place outside the actual Borough. The climate is mild, rather moist, but not subject to extreme variations of heat or cold.

The district is certainly a growing one, and the question of enlarging the boundaries is one which in my opinion deserves careful thought on the part of all the Authorities concerned. The population of the Borough has for many years remained almost stationary, and is almost at its limit.

Social Conditions in the District.

No. of inhabited houses :—(1921) 2735.

No. of families or separate occupiers :—(1921)
2901.

Rateable value £74,751.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £265.

The population consists of private residents (a number of whom are retired Service and business people) tradespeople and working classes. Of the latter some work at Cowes or Newport, or on the land, but the majority are dependent upon the trade of the town,

the letting of lodgings to summer visitors, and similar occupations. There is no large industry in the Borough. Many of the families of yachtsmen, soldiers, sailors and airmen reside in the town. The inhabitants have shared the general depression and unemployment which has desolated the country ever since the war, but not being an industrial area Ryde has not been reduced to such a plight as many towns. The general rate of wages is very low, and the cost of living somewhat high, owing to the cost of transport; nevertheless there is very little abject poverty. The chief difficulty as regards social conditions is overcrowding.

Amount of out-relief granted during the year 1925:—

Ordinary	...	...	£1,572	3	10
Unemployment	...	...	£	615	10
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total		£2,187	14	8
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Vital Statistics.

Deaths:—Males 70; Females 108. Total 178.

Death Rate, 16·9 per 1000 (Average 11·2).

Births:—Males, 70; Females, 56. Total 126.

Birth Rate, 12·0 (Average 18·3).

Infantile Mortality. Deaths under one year of age:

Boys, 2, Girls, 3. Total 5.

Infantile Mortality, 39·7 per 1000 births (Average 74)

These figures suggest a decaying town, but are not as bad as they seem. As stated above, a number of elderly people come to the town after their life's work is over and end their days here, while their children work elsewhere. This applies to all classes and accounts for the fact that 99 of the total of 178 deaths

were of persons of sixty-five or over. Thus the population is continuously being augmented by persons over the child-bearing age, while many of the younger people are going to live in new houses outside the Borough.

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority. The Borough has a small Isolation Hospital for the treatment of scarlet fever and diphtheria. It contains two wards, with seven beds each, under a permanent Matron, who obtains extra assistance from local Nursing Homes when required. The provision of accommodation for nurses is inadequate and insufficient facilities for isolating the patients of different sexes exist. The provision of the urgently needed accommodation is under consideration, but is in temporary abeyance, owing to the project of forming a single Isolation Hospital for the whole Island being unsettled. The possession of an independent Hospital has certainly been a boon recently, when the other Hospital in the Island has been full nearly all the year, and unless much larger accommodation than now exists is provided, the Borough is, in my opinion, well advised to retain its present hospital.

Small-pox cases are isolated by the County Council, which also provides accommodation for cases of tuberculosis.

There is no municipal maternity or children's hospital, but a Hostel for Ailing Children exists in the Borough, and has maternity wards. This institution receives a grant from the Ministry of Health, but otherwise depends on payments by patients and voluntary support.

Ambulance facilities.

(a) Infection. The Borough has an isolation ambulance van, and contracts for horse hire when required.

(b) Notification. There are two ambulances at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, which are available when not required for hospital cases. There is also a Red Cross ambulance at Newport.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every Friday afternoon at Trinity Hall, Melville Street. The Medical Officer of Health attends each week, and the Ryde District Nurses organise and supervise the clinic. Treatment of minor ailments is carried out, and advice given, due regard being paid to professional etiquette and avoidance of interference with the treatment by private practitioners.

There are no Day Nurseries in the town, and the School Clinics, Tuberculosis dispensaries and Venereal Treatment Centres are under the County Council.

Public Health Officers, Etc.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time).

One Sanitary Inspector, C.R. San. Institute, C. Meat and Food Inspector, C. and Diploma San. Inspectors Assoc. Exam. Board (whole time).

Who also acts as :—The Inspector of Hackney Carriages, Public Service Vehicles, and Licenced Porters, and as the Officer of the Council under the Shops Acts, Petroleum Acts, Celluloid and Cinematograph Acts, and Fabrics Misdescription Acts.

One Matron of Isolation Hospital (whole time).
One Maid at Isolation Hospital.
One Gardener at Isolation Hospital (who also performs fumigation work, etc.).
One Health Visitor (practically whole time).

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. In addition to a number of private nurses, and nursing homes which send out some of their staff, there is a very efficient staff of district nurses, consisting of two Mid-wives, two General Nurses, one School Nurse (subsidised by the County Council, which controls the schools throughout the Island), and the Health Visitor above mentioned, the whole staff being under a Superintendent. The whole organisation is under a voluntary association, but a grant of £80 is made by the Borough for the salary of the Health and Infant Welfare Nurse, and the County Council also make a grant for the salary of the School Nurse. The Mothercraft and Infant Welfare Centre is run by the whole of this staff, and all the work is excellently co-ordinated under the able Superintendent, Miss Wyatt.

(b) Infectious. All cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria are nursed at the Borough Isolation Hospital; cases of enteric generally at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital; small-pox is dealt with by the County Authority; measles, mumps, etc., are nursed at home and are visited by the District nurses if necessary.

Midwives. These are under the supervision of the County Council.

Chemical Work. Messrs. Angell & Angell, of Southampton are the Analysts to the Borough.

List of Adoptive Acts, Etc., in force.

	Adopted
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts 2, 3 and 4	10/2/91
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Acts, 1890 ...	10/2/91
Private Street Works Act, 1892	9/7/95
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 15 to 29, 32 and 33 of Part 2. The whole of Part 3. Sections 52 to 65 of Part 4, and the whole of Part 5 ...	4/2/09
Bye-laws with respect to the Drainage of Existing Buildings. Allowed by the Minister of Health, 2/4/25.	

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. During the past five years the supply of water has been found to be inadequate on several occasions and exceptional measures for economising water were taken (such as shutting off the supply after 7 p.m.) It was therefore felt that a scheme for increasing the supply must be carried out, and this was initiated in 1923. The scheme involved the driving of fresh adits into the chalk, under land belonging to a private owner and the purchase of fresh water rights from him. The total outlay so far has been over £12,700 and it is hoped that when the work is completed it will result in a much larger supply. The water pumped from the wells in 1925 amounted to 232,320,000 gallons, an increase of 18,500,000 gallons.

The quality of the water is good, and as it comes from the chalk and upper greensand of the Downs five miles South of the town, it is very hard. An analysis is appended : the qualifications in the analysts' praise may

be due to the fact that the reservoirs had been cleaned out about a fortnight before the sample was taken, and some sediment may have remained. I have given a more recent analysis, as this represents more truly the condition of the water as now supplied to the Borough, and to certain outlying districts. There is a constant supply, except in periods of shortage.

Analysis of a Sample of Water taken from Ashey Waterworks at 2 p.m., February 17th, 1926. (The figures for February, 1925, are given for comparison, but the report is on the more recent specimen).

Physical Properties.

Colour at depth of 2ft.—Colourless.

Smell when heated—not noticeable.

Appearance of residue after evaporation—clean, white, fine crystalline.

Turbidity—none, bright and clear.

Suspended matter—trace only.

Re-action—neutral.

Chemical Analysis.

	Expressed in parts per 100,000. Feb., 1926.	Feb., 1925
Free Ammonia (saline) ...	.0028	trace only
Albuminoid Ammonia (from organic matter)... ...	.0026	.0052
Oxygen absorbed in fifteen minutes at 80 °F ...	.009	.0085
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80 °F ...	.009	.0125
Nitrogen present as nitrates and nitrites ... ...	.395	.288
Chlorine (x 1.648 common salt)	2.38	2.4

Phosphoric Acid	slight trace	nil
Poisonous metals (lead, copper or zinc)	nil	nil
Total solids dried at 212 °F	28.4	27.6
Total hardness	12.5	
Behaviour of residue on igniting	A slight visible darkening and odour of organic matter burning.	
Microscopic examination of deposit	A very small deposit—less than was present in last sample we examined. About a dozen epithelium cells with some organic particles & several cotton fibres (mostly broken) formed its substance.	

Bacteriological Examination.

Bacterial of intestinal type, *i.e.*, organisms growing at 105 °C in bile—salt—glucose—peptine solution.

In 10 cc—acid and fermentation, no gas.

In 20 cc—abundant acid and gas.

Number of colonies growing in gelatine

Equal to 7 per cc. 3/10 cc—2 colonies.

Report.

This analysis shews the water to be constant in its general character as compared with the sample taken twelve months ago ; in some respects there are improvements — oxidised nitrogen having slightly increased with a reduction in nitrogen as organic ammonia and in amounts of oxygen absorbed ; there is, too, less matter in suspension. The small figure for

colonies growing on gelatine is satisfactory, but the presence of B. Coli in 20 cc. is not quite so, as bacteria capable of setting up fermentation but not gas are present in smaller quantities than 20 cc.

Generally the water is a good and wholesome one; it escapes the very highest praise, because of certain indications here and there in the analysis of the presence of surface matters of an undesirable nature—these though are reduced in quantity as both chemistry and the microscope indicate.

(Signed)

ARTHUR ANGELL,

ARTHUR FRENCH ANGELL.

Rivers and Streams.

There are only the two small brooks aforesaid, bounding the Borough, and although occasional pollution of the Binstead Brook has been reported, no action has been taken owing to lack of evidence.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A large portion of the town being built upon the "blue slipper" clay, and many of the houses being old, it is to be feared that the drains of many of them are not as perfect as they should be. Careful testing of drains in all cases in which complaints are received and where infectious disease has broken out is the only practicable method of dealing with the matter. The very low incidence of infectious disease, especially typhoid, suggests that the condition of the drainage of the Borough cannot be in a very serious state. The appended report of the Sanitary Inspector will show the extent to which action has been found necessary. It will be seen that in forty-four dwelling-houses repairs

to drainage have been effected. In newly erected houses care is taken that the drains are carefully laid in such a manner as to obviate the difficulties met with in older buildings, all being laid in concrete.

Sewage is disposed of by passing it untreated into the Solent by a long sewer extending 700 feet from the shore. No complaints have been received.

Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

Scavenging.

This is efficiently carried out by the Council's men, but far too many householders are content to dump their house refuse into old and leaky boxes, and only a small proportion use proper sanitary dust-bins. This is very noticeable outside the shops in the main streets early in the morning. One day in Union Street, a thoroughfare containing over eighty shops, I counted only nine sanitary dust-bins; the rest were old tubs, boxes and even cardboard boxes. The work of the scavengers is thus rendered more laborious, unpleasant and unhealthy than need be the case, and consequently takes longer to complete.

The refuse is dealt with by dumping, which at present is taking place on low ground on the East side of the Borough. This method is offensive and tends to breed rats in large numbers, but the latter nuisance is being dealt with by rat-catchers, and the cost of a destructor seems to be an insuperable obstacle. Personally I should be glad to see joint action with neighbouring bodies for the erection of a destructor.

4. Housing.

The statistics required will be found on the last page of the Sanitary Inspector's report. He has so ably summarised the position in this matter that I have little to add. I should like to say, however, that the shortage of houses, especially of the working-class type, is sufficiently serious to make any attempt to condemn unsatisfactory houses hopeless. It is impossible to turn people out of houses, however bad, if there is nowhere for them to go. Two houses in Alma Place, Player Street, are awaiting demolition, but the inmates can find no alternative accommodation, so this must wait. In my opinion the provision of fifty houses is a minimum, and other houses will sooner or later become as unsatisfactory as those mentioned. The overcrowding has certainly become less during the past two years, but much remains to be done, and in every case the impossibility of finding alternative accommodation baffles our efforts. Much "profiteering" in rooms, furnished and unfurnished, is indulged in by many tenants of houses who have a few rooms to spare and demand for them a sum greater than the rent they pay for the whole house.

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

All dairies and cow-sheds in the Borough are carefully inspected, and all cattle tested by the Borough's Veterinary Surgeon, for tuberculosis. Only one case of tuberculosis was notified during the current year.

The milk supply of the town is in my opinion exceptionally good.

Meat.

The Sanitary Inspector is also a trained Meat Inspector and personally inspects the carcase of every animal slaughtered in the Borough. In his report he gives full details of his work which is most thoroughly carried out, and that with full co-operation of the retailers of the district. Satisfactory as these results are, they entail an enormous amount of work, which could be much reduced by the erection of a public abattoir.

6. Infectious Diseases.

	No. of Cases notified during the Year.	Treated at Borough Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	28	28	Nil
Diphtheria	9	9	Nil
Erysipelas	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	—	(of cases notified) 1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1

There have been no cases of small-pox in the Borough.

Throat-swabs are reported on by the Clinical Research Association at a contract rate; in emergency they are also examined at the Pathological Department of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available at short notice, being kept in stock by one of the chemists in the town.

The Schick test was utilised about two years ago in the case of an outbreak of diphtheria in an institution in the Borough. The results were unsatisfactory, several "negative" children contracting the disease. My experience is that as a method of localising an outbreak it is inferior to the old method of swabbing all contacts, which I adopt in all cases where possible. Artificial

immunisation against scarlet fever and diphtheria has not been practised in the Borough. There is relatively little scarlet fever and still less diphtheria in the Borough, most of the epidemics having been introduced from outside.

Vaccination.

The regulations have been applied with greater rigour during the past year, but many persons still remain unvaccinated, owing to the ease with which they can obtain exemption.

Number of primary vaccinations :—121.

These were performed either by the Public Vaccinator or by private practitioners. The Medical Officer has performed none in his official capacity.

Cancer.

Deaths in 1925. Males 5. Females 15.

Percentage Mortality 11·2 per 100 deaths.

Puerperal Sepsis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There have been no cases of these diseases notified during the past year.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 5 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
„ 10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 15 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 20 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
„ 25 „	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
„ 35 „	2	1	—	1	1	3	—	—
„ 45 „	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
„ 55 „	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	2
	9	6	1	4	5	6	1	2

The number of cases notified during the year 1925 shows a notable increase over previous years. This is due, I believe, not to an increased incidence in the disease, but to the more thorough compliance with the regulations respecting notifications of tuberculosis. In the case of pneumonia, however, the notifications are very incomplete; thus out of ten deaths, only one was notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No cases were brought to my notice in which action under these regulations was required.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No cases were encountered in which it was necessary to act under this section.

7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Reference to the weekly clinic, and to the domiciliary work of the Health Visitor has already been made in a previous section. The co-ordination of this work with the District Midwives on the one hand and the School Nurse on the other ensures continuous supervision of the child's health throughout the first fourteen years of its life.

There have been no maternal deaths this year, and a very low figure for infant deaths. The increased number of women who attend the clinic or their own practitioners for ante-natal examination and advice doubtless is tending to reduce both figures.

To expectant mothers, nursing mothers, and sick or weakly children under three years of age, milk is

granted by the Council if the means of the parents fall below the scale laid down by the Ministry of Health in the Public Health (Maternity and Child Welfare) Regulations, 1922.

The problem of the unmarried mother and her child is dealt with by the East Wight Preventive and Rescue Association at their home in Pellhurst Road, under the able supervision of Miss Etheridge. In connection with this work must be mentioned the excellent work done by the Moral Welfare Association amongst the children. This work, which requires even more tact and care than that of the parent Association, is in the hands of Miss Young and its value is incalculable. Although purely a voluntary organisation this welfare work receives the support of the Authority in every possible way.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections, (2)	Written Notices, (3)	Occupiers prosecuted, (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	1	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	87	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	--	—	—
Total	88	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	I	I	--	--
Want of ventilation	--	--	--	--
Overcrowding	--	--	--	--
Want of drainage of floors ...	--	--	--	--
Other nuisances	--	--	--	--
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient ...	--	--	--
	unsuitable or defective	I	I	I
	not separate for sexes	--	--	--
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	--	--	--	--
Other offences...	23	23	--	--
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	25	25	I	--

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nil.

I have the honour, gentlemen, to be

Your obedient servant,

L. FIRMAN-EDWARDS.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1925.

TOWN HALL,

RYDE.

March, 1926.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Ryde.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration a report upon my fourth year's work as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Ryde.

Eighty-eight complaints relating to the following matters were received during the year under review :—

Choked and defective drains	...	...	26
Defective water closets	...	...	6
Dilapidated and dirty houses	...	...	25
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations of refuse	...	...	17
Nuisance from street gullies and man-holes	...	...	4
Nuisance from trade premises	...	...	4
Contraventions of Shops Acts	...	...	2
			—
			88

Each complaint was investigated and where found to be justified the necessary steps were taken to secure due compliance with the law respecting the matter.

Slaughterhouses and Meat and Food Inspection.

There are six registered private slaughterhouses in use within the Borough at the present time, the same number as in 1920, and arrangements have been made in co-operation with the local butchers whereby regular times have been fixed for slaughtering to take place in them. If, however, animals have of necessity to be slaughtered at times other than those fixed for that purpose, then due notice of the time and place of slaughter has to be given. 3,500 animal carcasses have been examined since the 1st April, 1925, when the Public Health (Meat) Regulations came into force, (178 bullocks, 465 calves, 1,368 pigs, and 1,489 sheep and lambs) and the examinations have entailed 936 visits. Under any other arrangements than those at present in force (which I may say are working in a highly satisfactory manner) this would not have been possible of attainment.

No system of marking meat is at present in operation.

Diseased meat is disposed of by burning at the local gas works by special arrangement with the Manager. 11 cwts. and 27 lbs. of diseased and unwholesome meat, 5 cwts. and 7 lbs. of fish, 6 cwts. of potatoes, $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. of apples, and nine tins of condensed milk have been condemned and destroyed during the year, (1 ton, 6 cwts. and 4 lbs. excluding the milk), and twenty-two carcasses (diseased wholly or in part) were dealt with at the slaughterhouses.

Food Analysis.

The undermentioned formal samples of food were purchased in Ryde, during the year by the County Officials, for Analysis :—

Butter	...	...	...	...	2
Bread and butter			...	...	2
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	31
Whiskey	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					38

The Analysts' reports shew all to have been genuine. One sample of milk, however, contained a visible quantity of dirty debris, and a second sample which was subsequently taken from the same retailer was certified to be clean.

Bakehouses.

Forty-six visits have been paid to these premises during the year. A new bakehouse has been added to the register, and a very old one (the worst in the town) was deleted from it.

Factories.

Two complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories respecting conditions observed at an inspection of a Factory Bakehouse and of a Cabinet Making Factory. The floor of the bakehouse was not in a cleanly state, and a water-closet at the Cabinet Making Works was ventilating into the workrooms. Both these matters were dealt with as the law allows, and H.M. Inspector was notified to that effect.

Workshops.

The trades carried on in the fifty-one workplaces now entered in the Workshops Register, are as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	19
Bootmakers and Repairers	...	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	2
Carpenter and Joiner	...	...	...	3
Cabinet Maker	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	7
Dyer and Cleaner	...	...	...	1
Ironmonger	...	...	...	1
Motor and Cycle Repairers	...	...	...	4
Manufacturing Confectioners	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Bottler	...	...	...	1
Rag Sorter	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	5
Tinsmith	...	...	...	1
Upholsterer	...	...	...	1
				—
				51
				—

Closet Accommodation and Drainage.

The whole of the closets throughout the borough are on the water carriage system and the available statistics as to the number of water closets and baths are as follows :—

Total number of houses 2,702.

Total number of water closets 4,846 which averages 1.7

W.C.'s per house.

Total number of baths 1,012 which averages 1 bath per 2.6 houses.

Action was taken during the year with respect to defective drainage, at premises known as The Royal Victoria Arcade, Union Street. The Owner having failed to comply with the requirements of the Council, the work was executed by the Council, as the law allows, and the expenditure involved duly recovered from the Owner.

Smoke Abatement.

It was not found necessary to take any action respecting the abatement of nuisance from smoke.

Disinfection.

Thirty-three dwellinghouses have been fumigated after infectious disease, and thirty-nine loads of infected bedding, etc., disinfected by steam.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are twenty-six persons on the register, fifteen as retail purveyors, three as producers, and eight as retail purveyors and producers.

The fifteen cowsheds within the Borough house 129 cows, and with the exception of 5 sheds which are very old and well nigh worn out, the structures are good. In all cases limewashing is carried out regularly twice a year, once during the month of May, and again during the month of October, as required by your regulations.

Licences to sell graded milk may be granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, but as yet,

no request for such a licence has been made, and it is doubtful if many will take advantage of it. It was not found necessary to take any action with respect to tuberculous milk, and only one case of tuberculosis among dairy cattle was notified under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the area is exemplified by the fact that thirty-one samples were taken from retailers, for analysis, and all were certified by the County Analyst to be of genuine quality, and with one exception to be clean.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1925, will it is hoped have a good effect upon the retailer who may under this Act be either refused registration or removed from the register conditionally upon the local authority being satisfied that any act or default of his in relation to the quality, storage, or distribution of milk, is likely to endanger the public health.

Housing.

One hundred and sixty-eight dwellinghouses have been inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) during the year, and one-hundred-and-eight of these were recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. The general character of the defects found to exist were leaky roofs, damp walls, broken floors and stairs, perished and loose wall and ceiling plaster, dirty walls and ceilings, defective window frames and sash lines, water closet flushing cisterns out of order, leaky eaves guttering, and dilapidated refuse receptacles, and these conditions were

in large measure found to be due to the want of adequate supervision by Owners and Agents, and to a lesser degree to acts of waste and neglect by the tenants. During the past four years (that is, the period that I have been in your employ) six hundred and nineteen dwellinghouses have been inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts and three hundred and ninety of this number have been recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Previous to this no record of house inspections was made. The majority of the working class houses provided within the Borough are semi-detached and of the through type with a piece of garden in front and behind. There are, however, several rows of low standard houses with accommodation limited to three rooms and a scullery, and moreover, a few of similar type having only two rooms, and the approach to some of them is not all that one would desire. The worst houses in the town are situate in a court known as St. John's Place, and here there are sixteen houses built in two rows facing each other across an open space forty-four feet at one end and thirty-two feet at the other. In the centre of this space is a block of ten water closets built back to back, five on each side, and the remainder is garden ground. Water for drinking and ablution purposes is supplied by six taps fixed over trapped drain inlets in front of the houses. There are three rooms to each house, one living room and two bed rooms, and the bed rooms have a capacity sufficient for not more than three adult persons. Each house has a separate larder and coal store but none are provided with a sink or place for the washing of clothes which work has to be done in the living room. There is an adequate sufficiency of air

space surrounding the houses, but a very limited amount of air passes through them owing to the want of through means of ventilation. These houses and several others on the border line of unfitness which are old and well nigh worn out will automatically cease to be occupied as other and better accommodation is provided. The Council are not building themselves but they are affording financial assistance to private enterprise in the erection of houses by means of a lump sum grant of £100 in so far as they relate to forty houses, and thirty-three of this number are already erected or in course of erection. The rents paid for existing houses with two, three and four rooms range from 2/6 to 6/- per week and for those with five rooms 6/- to 9/6 per week.

Summary of Inspections, Etc.

Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	...	56
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops inspections	...				64
Dwellinghouses inspected. (Housing, Town Planning, &c., Acts)	...	...	...	...	108
Dwellinghouses inspected. (Public Health Acts)					60
Foodshop inspections	...	...	...	...	30
Factory inspections...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice-Cream Shop inspections	...	...	...	...	6
School inspections ...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouse inspections	...	...	...	...	936
Shop inspections (Shops Acts)	...	...	...	...	38
Workshop inspections	...	...	...	...	31
Investigations of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	30
Dwellinghouses fumigated...	...	...	...	...	33
Visits to house repairing work in progress				...	212
Visits to premises under notice	...	...	...	...	196

Drain tests ...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	134
Property Owners or Agents interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	82
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	8
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	139

Remedial Work.

Number of dwellinghouses :—

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cooking range repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Copper repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	44
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Roofs repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Rainwater pipes disconnected from soil drain						4
Rainwater pipes repaired	...	...	..	..	..	8
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water service laid on to scullery	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Walls re-papered or distempered	..	..	..	..	..	6
Water closet pan renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet flushing cistern repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water closet soil pipe repaired or renewed	...					1
Yard paving repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Accumulations of refuse removed	8
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	8

Number of Cowsheds :—

Limewashed	12
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Number of Dairies :—

Limewashed	1
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Number of Slaughterhouses :—

Limewashed	3
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Accumulations of refuse removed	1
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Number of Workshops (including Bakehouses) :—

Limewashed	24
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Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	13
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(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—					
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(1) By the Local Authority	...	—			
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(2) By other bodies or persons	...	13			
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Unfit Dwellinghouses.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housings Acts)	168
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Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	108
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Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
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Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	95
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Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	86
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Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	58
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Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) by Owners	37
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close

—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	58
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Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by Owners	49
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	9

Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the
Housing Act, 1925 :—

Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	...	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling- houses having been rendered fit	...	...	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	—
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. AINLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

